

Remarks

In the above captioned office action, Examiner has rejected claims 1-12, 16-29, and 34-37 and allowed claims 13, 15, 30, 32, 33, 38, and 40. Applicants have amended the specification as well as claims 13, 30, 32, and 38 to correct various informalities. Applicants cancel without prejudice claims 1-12, 16-29, and 34-37 in order to place the application into condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Objections to the Specification

In the above captioned office action, Examiner has objected to the disclosure for containing an informality. Specifically, the text on page 14, line 14 was missing a space character. Applicants have amended the specification according to Examiner's suggestion so that "re-availabilityrespectively" now reads "re-availability, respectively". Applicants accordingly request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

In the above captioned office action, Examiner has objected to claims 13, 30, 32, and 38 for containing grammatical informalities. Applicants have amended claims 13, 30, 32, and 38 as suggested by Examiner. Applicants do not offer these amendments to avoid prior art and these amendments do not alter the scope of claimed coverage.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner for allowing claims 13, 15, 30, 32, 33, 38, and 40.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

In the above captioned office action, Examiner has rejected claims 1-12, 16-29, and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of

US Patent Application Publication 2002/0073358 filed by Atkinson ("Atkinson") with: US Patent No. 5,875,120 issued to Matsushima et al ("Matsushima"), US Patent No. 5,638,541 issued to Sadashivaiah ("Sadashivaiah"), US Patent No. 6,243,831 issued to Mustafa et al ("Mustafa"), and/or US Patent No. 6,601,181 issued to Thomas ("Thomas").

Applicants have cancelled all rejected claims without prejudice in order to move the application into an allowance condition. Applicants accordingly request an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, claims 13, 15, 30, 32, 33, 38, and 40 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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